

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 STATE 223579

63

ORIGIN SS-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 CCO-00 /021 R

DRAFTED BY P:ELPECK:IJG

APPROVED BY P - EDWARD L. PECK

S/S - MR. MILLER

----- 105902

P 130222Z NOV 73 ZFF4

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK PRIORITY

UNCLAS STATE 223579

TOPOL 11

E.O. 11652 N/A

TAGS: OVIP (PORTER, WILLIAM J.)

SUBJECT: FOREIGN AFFAIRS PRESS BRIEFINGS-NOVEMBER 12, 1973

STATE

1. COMMON MARKET DECLARATION--MR. VEST ANNOUNCED THAT MR. STOESSEL, ACCOMPANIED BY HELMUT SONNENFELDT, IS LEAVING TONIGHT FOR EUROPE PRINCIPALLY TO ATTEND THE POLITICAL DIRECTORS MEETING IN COPENHAGEN ON NOVEMBER 14 IN CONNECTION WITH NEGOTIATIONS ON A US-EC DECLARATION. WHEN ASKED, VEST REFUSED TO CHARACTERIZE THE DIFFERENCES BETWEEN THE TWO ON THE DRAFT DECLARATION.

2. NATO AND THE MIDDLE EAST CRISIS--VEST CHARACTERIZED THE SUBSTANCE OF RECENT DISCUSSIONS WITH THE EUROPEANS AS FRANK EXCHANGES WHICH LED TO BOTH SIDES THOROUGHLY RE-EXAMINING BOTH GOVERNMENTAL MOTIVATIONS AND ALLIANCE PROCEDURES. HE SUBSEQUENTLY REMARKED THAT THE US PERCEIVED THE CRISIS IN THE CONTEXT OF STRATEGIC CONCERNS WHILE THE EUROPEANS LOOKED AT IT GEOGRAPHICALLY. FROM THOSE DIFFERENT PERSPECTIVES, HE SAID, WE HAVE MOVED TO FURTHER DISCUSSIONS.

3. SECRETARY'S TRIP--VEST STATED HE COULD NOT SAY WHETHER THE SECRETARY WOULD TRAVEL TO SEOUL FROM PEKING SINCE THE UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 STATE 223579

FINAL SCHEDULE WOULD COME FROM THE PARTY. HE WOULD NOT

COMMENT ON ANY OTHER QUESTIONS REGARDING THE TRIP.

WHITE HOUSE

1. TODAY'S WHITE HOUSE PRESS BRIEFING WAS DEVOTED TO DOMESTIC CONCERNS.
2. PRESIDENTIAL LETTER TO TITO--WHILE NOT QUARRELING WITH THEM, THE WHITE HOUSE IS NOT PLANNING TO CONFIRM REPORTS THAT THE PRESIDENT HAS SENT A LETTER TO YUGOSLAV PRESIDENT TITO ON THE MIDDLE EAST SITUATION. HOWEVER, WHITE HOUSE SPOKESMEN WILL REMIND THE PRESS OF THE PRESIDENT'S INVOLVEMENT IN THE DIPLOMATIC NEGOTIATIONS ON THE MIDDLE EAST.

DEFENSE DEPARTMENT

1. MEDITERRANEAN FLEETS--THIS MORNING DOD SPOKESMAN JERRY FRIEDHEIM STATED THAT THE SIZE OF THE SOVIET FLEET QUOTE IS NOW IN THE 80'S, DOWN FROM THE 90'S OF LAST WEEK, END QUOTE AND THAT BOTH COMBAT AND SUPPORT SHIPS HAVE LEFT THE MEDITERRANEAN. HE SAID THERE WAS NO CHANGE IN THE SIXTH FLEET.
2. COMIDEASTFOR IN BAHRAIN--QUERIED WHETHER WE HAVE BEEN ASKED TO CLOSE COMIDEASTFOR IN BAHRAIN, FRIEDHEIM ACKNOWLEDGED THAT THIS MATTER QUOTE CAME UP A FEW WEEKS AGO, END QUOTE BUT THAT IT WAS QUOTE SOMETHING STATE WAS KEEPING TRACK OF. END QUOTE. LATER HE MENTIONED THAT THE DESTROYER USS ADAMS (ONE OF THE VESSELS IN COMIDEASTFOR) HAD BEEN OPERATING IN AND OUT OF THE RED SEA RECENTLY.
3. RESUPPLY EFFORTS--FRIEDHEIM STATED THAT THERE WAS NOTHING NEW TO REPORT ON THE US SEALIFT TO ISRAEL. US SUPPLY FLIGHTS OVER THE WEEKEND AVERAGED 15 DAILY. THE TOTAL SOVIET RESUPPLY TONNAGE HAD NOT CHANGED MARKEDLY FROM THE 100,000 TON FIGURE MENTIONED BY DEPUTY SECRETARY CLEMENTS IN CONGRESSIONAL TESTIMONY LAST WEEK.

DOD ARRANGED FOR FIVE NEWSMEN TO ACCOMPANY A C-5A
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 STATE 223579

SUPPLY FLIGHT TO ISRAEL THIS MORNING. REGARDING THE AZORES ASPECT OF THE RESUPPLY EFFORT, IT IS UNDERSTOOD THAT THEY WILL NOT GO BEYOND RECENT STATEMENTS BY SECRETARY SCHLESINGER.

4. OTHER NAVAL ACTIVITY--FRIEDHEIM STATED THE AIRCRAFT CARRIER USS HANCOCK WAS STILL IN THE INDIAN OCEAN. ASKED WHETHER EGYPTIAN DESTROYERS WERE STILL IN THE BAB EL-

MANDAB, HE REPLIED HE HAD QUOTE SEEN NOTHING NEW ON THAT.
END QUOTE.

5. MEDICAL EVACUATION FROM THE USSR--AT THE REQUEST OF THE
NATIONAL ACADEMY OF SCIENCES AND WITH DIPLOMATIC
CLEARANCES, A USAF MEDEVAC AIRCRAFT IS FLYING FROM GERMANY
DOD HAS ASKED THAT STATE MAKE AN APPROPRIATE ANNOUNCEMENT

AFTER THE EVACUATION IS COMPLETED. RUSH

UNCLASSIFIED

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 13 NOV 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973STATE223579
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: ELPECK:IJG
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19731137/aaaabavs.tel
Line Count: 124
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ORIGIN SS
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: collinp0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 25 JAN 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <25-Jan-2002 by chappeld>; APPROVED <15 MAR 2002 by collinp0>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: FOREIGN AFFAIRS PRESS BRIEFINGS-NOVEMBER 12, 1973 STATE
TAGS: OVIP, (PORTER, WILLIAM J)
To: REYKJAVIK
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005